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REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS ON ITS FIRST SESSION

(New York, 11-15 September 1995)

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CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION	1 - 2	3
	A. Draft decision	1	3
	B. Decision brought to the attention of the Council	2	3
II.	PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR THE OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS	3 - 21	3
III.	DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	22 - 26	9
IV.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PANEL ON ITS FIRST SESSION	27 - 29	10
V.	ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS	30 - 42	10
	A. Opening and duration of the session	30 - 32	10
	B. Attendance	33	10
	C. Election of officers	34 - 37	11
	D. Agenda and organization of work	38 - 39	11
	E. Documentation	40	11
	F. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Panel	41 - 42	12

Annexes

I.	ATTENDANCE	13
II.	LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE PANEL AT ITS FIRST SESSION	14
III.	TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PANEL AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	15
IV.	LIST OF ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATION TO THE WORK OF THE PANEL	18

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decision

1. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Future sessions of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

The Economic and Social Council approves the request of the Panel to extend the duration of it second session, to be held in Geneva, from one week to two weeks, so that the dates of the second session would be from 11 to 22 March 1995, and also approves its request that the third session be held from 2 to 13 September 1996 at a venue to be determined.

B. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decision adopted by the Panel is brought to the attention of the Council:

Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Panel

The Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests decides to invite the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to attend its sessions as an intergovernmental organization with the status of observer.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES FOR THE OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON FORESTS

3. At its 1st to 6th meetings, from 11 to 14 September 1995, the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests considered item 3 of its agenda. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work and organizational modalities for the Panel of the Commission on Sustainable Development (E/CN.17/IPF/1995/2).

4. During the consideration of the item, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Spain (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), the United States of America, Australia, China, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Uganda, Mexico, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, India, France, Gabon, the Netherlands and Costa Rica.

5. Statements were also made by the observers for Norway, Switzerland, New Zealand, Colombia, Sweden, Ecuador, Guatemala and Portugal.

6. Statements were made by the following specialized agencies: United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

7. A statement was also made by the representative of the European Community.

8. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Chamber of Commerce (category I); International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (category II); Friends of the Earth, and Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (roster).

9. The Panel considered suggestions regarding its future programme of work as contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/IPF/1995/2).

10. The Panel stressed the need for an integrated and holistic approach in its work in relation to all of the programme elements included in its terms of reference by the Commission on Sustainable Development. It decided that the agendas of its forthcoming sessions should include all the issues in its programme of work in order to allow their consideration in a balanced and integrated manner.

11. At the same time, the Panel felt that certain issues should be dealt with in depth at particular future sessions, as follows:

Programme element	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
I.1	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion	Final consideration
I.2	Substantive discussion	Progress report	Final consideration
I.3	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion	Final consideration
I.4	Substantive discussion	Progress report	Final consideration
I.5	Substantive discussion	Progress report	Final consideration
II	Substantive discussion	Further substantive discussion	Final consideration
III.1	Substantive discussion	Further substantive discussion	Final consideration
III.2	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion	Final consideration
IV	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion	Final consideration
V.1	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion	Final consideration
V.2	No discussion	Initial discussion	Substantive discussion and final consideration

It was further decided that all issues would be open for consideration until the conclusion of the work of the Panel.

12. The Panel took note with satisfaction of the establishment of collaborative inter-agency arrangements comprising the organizations most directly concerned with forest issues, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Those arrangements were intended to provide and mobilize substantive support for the work of the Panel and its secretariat. The Panel requested the Co-Chairmen of the Panel and the Bureau to maintain close contacts with the secretariat and the inter-agency arrangements mentioned above in order to provide guidance for the preparatory work.

13. The Panel requested the Secretary-General, through the inter-agency arrangements established to support the work of the Panel, and drawing particularly on the resources and technical expertise of relevant organizations, including FAO, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, ITTO, and other relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system and secretariats of relevant conventions, with appropriate contributions of non-governmental organizations, to prepare reports as indicated in paragraph 18. Preparation of those reports should make full use of national information and the body of knowledge existing in the international community.

14. The Panel reiterated the need to confine its deliberations within the terms of its reference as determined by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

15. The Panel welcomed efforts of Governments and organizations to organize activities in relation with the work of the Panel and took note of various ongoing and planned activities, which are listed in annex II below. However, although the results of such activities could provide valuable expert input to the work of the Panel, any decisions on policy recommendations, to be presented for consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, would rest with the Panel itself. Furthermore, those activities should be in full conformity with the tasks assigned to the Panel.

16. The Panel recommended to all countries and organizations planning or proposing to organize meetings or expert consultations relevant to the work of the Panel to ensure the open-ended, transparent, participatory and representative nature of such initiatives and the balanced and active involvement of developed and developing countries from all regions and groups. The organizers, in the course of their preparation, should consult with the Co-Chairmen, the Bureau and the secretariat of the Panel, as appropriate.

17. The Panel appreciated the need for the broad and active involvement and contribution of major groups, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the preparatory work for and deliberations at its future sessions.

18. The Panel decided that, for its future sessions, the preparatory work should cover all elements in its programme of work as approved by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session and would include among others, the following:

I. Implementation of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development decisions related to forests at the national and international level including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages

I.1 The preparatory work should be based on the provisions of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests, and would benefit from consideration of regional initiatives and regional dimensions. The preparatory work should include the preparation of a report on all types of forests, presenting an overview of current approaches to national strategies, including links between national forest plans and sustainable development strategies/plans, and land-use plans, including ecosystem management aspects, and sectoral plans; and a synthesis of lessons learned, including lessons learned from participatory forest management approaches at the national and field levels. The preparatory work should also include a report on an assessment of progress made in implementing national forest and integrated land-use plans and should identify gaps in need of further attention. It should also focus on improved cooperation and implementation by national Governments of bilateral and multilateral forest-related planning activities and programmes, and the use of national-level participatory processes to that end.

I.2 Preparation for the discussion of this issue requires judicious consideration of an array of contributing factors, many of them of a cross-sectoral nature. A report on the underlying causes and cross-sectoral influences on forest degradation and deforestation and on the difficulties of implementing sustainable forest management should be prepared. The report should bring together key work in this area and identify gaps.

I.3 Preparation for this programme element should take full benefit of, and establish links to, the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity. Consistent with the terms of that Convention, it should encourage countries to consider ways and means for the effective protection and use of forest-related knowledge, the innovations and practices of forest dwellers, indigenous people and other local communities, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices.

I.4 Preparation for this issue would include a report on the experience with afforestation, reforestation, and the restoration of forest systems, where appropriate, particularly in countries with fragile ecosystems and those affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in Africa, including links to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought

and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. A synthesis of the impact of air-borne pollutants on forests - in particular, those in central and eastern Europe - and an assessment of ongoing activities and proposals for possible future action would also be included. The report should include an assessment of the expansion of all types of forest cover due to reforestation and afforestation.

I.5 Preparation would include a report on the specific needs of countries with low forest cover, particularly developing countries, in order to promote activities aimed at conserving the existing coverage, with particular attention to unique type of forests. The report should consider particular situations where communities and forest dwellers depend on forests to meet their subsistence needs such as fuel, food, forage, grazing provisions for livestock, shelter, and medicinal plants. The preparations for this issue should also include an identification of areas of low forest cover, forests as protected areas, and dry wood lands.

II. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer

II.1 Preparations for and deliberations on this cross-cutting issue are relevant to the consideration of all other programme elements. Consideration should be given to ways to address the critical areas relating to the transfer and development of environmentally sound technology on favourable terms, as mutually agreed, and the mobilization of financial resources, including the provision of new and additional resources, taking into account principles 10 and 11 of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests and relevant chapters of Agenda 21, with a view to assisting developing countries to pursue policies and comprehensive strategies for achieving sustainable forest management, and taking into account the ongoing work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant processes. Consideration should also be given to ways of improving the efficiency and coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance in delivering forest programmes, including proposals for cooperation, at the national and international levels, within and among all relevant multilateral institutions, including United Nations agencies and the World Bank, and between multilateral and bilateral donors.

III. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

III.1 Preparation would include two reports - one identifying ways to expand on the FAO Forest Resources Assessment with regard to the qualitative and quantitative assessment of all types of forests, including information on biological resources and non-wood forest products and services; information on environmental and social benefits; standardization of tropical and non-tropical data; collection of broader types of forest statistics; coordination of forest monitoring with remote sensing and

geographical information systems; the continuous nature of the assessment; and accessibility of information generated to all interested parties.

The second report would consider ways to promote the further development of methodologies for properly valuating the multiple benefits derived from forests, in the form of goods and services, and subsequently consider their inclusion within the systems of national accounts, drawing upon work that has already been undertaken by the United Nations and other relevant organizations and assessing progress in the application and incorporation of innovative approaches into national accounts. Consideration of this item should benefit from deliberations under programme element IV and other ongoing work done in this field.

The science community should be involved in the preparations of these analyses in order to explore ways and means of enhancing the scientific basis for such assessments and valuations.

III.2 A report for discussion under this item should include, for all types of forests, a review of experience of the development and implementation of national-level criteria and indicators; an exploration of ways and means of facilitating the engagement of regions and countries not yet involved in a process for the development of criteria and indicators; and an examination of the need to promote comparability and the appropriateness of international compatibility, should that be judged necessary. Work under this element should take into account regional and subregional characteristics of forests and the diversity of economic, social and cultural environments. The report should consider the progress of various initiatives including those of ITTO, the Helsinki Process, the Montreal Process, the Tarapoto Process and the results of FAO/UNEP regional meetings.

IV. Trade and environment relating to forest products and services

IV.1 The broad mandate assigned to the Panel by the Commission on Sustainable Development should be examined in an integrated and holistic manner. The overall goal is to promote the mutually supportive roles of trade and environment. Reports should be prepared in order to identify opportunities and recommend measures for improving market access for forest products on a non-discriminatory basis and consider factors that may distort trade in forest products and affect their value, including pricing, import/export controls, subsidies and the need to remove bans and boycotts inconsistent with the rules of the multilateral trading system. Reports should include an assessment of means to promote the development of methodologies to advance the full valuation, including replacement and environmental costs, of forest goods and services, and of wood substitutes, with the view to promoting full cost internalization. Reports must, taking into account the interests of all sectors and the particularities of different countries and ensuring full transparency and participation of all interested parties, examine the issue of voluntary certification and labelling of forest products, so as to contribute to a better understanding

of the role of voluntary certification with regard to the sustainable management of forests, including the impact of certification on developing countries. The Secretary-General, in carrying out the consultative process outlined in paragraph 13 above, is requested to draw on the expertise of organizations, such as UNEP, UNCTAD, ITTO and the World Trade Organization (WTO), able to contribute to the preparatory work under this programme element.

V. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments including appropriate legal mechanisms

V.1 Preparation would include a report presenting an overview and description of existing institutions and instruments, including their role and mandates vis-à-vis programme elements I-IV above, and identifying institutional linkages, gaps, areas requiring enhancement, and any areas of duplication.

V.2 The deliberation of this programme element would be based on a step-by-step consensus-building process and would be an item for substantive discussion at the fourth session of the Panel.

19. The Panel agreed on the need to allocate the business to be considered at its second and, probably, third sessions, between not more than two in-sessional working groups, each chaired by one of the Co-Chairmen. Specific arrangements would be proposed by the two Co-Chairmen in consultation with all interested delegations.

20. Bearing in mind the complexity and broad scope of issues on its agenda, the Panel decided that its second meeting should be held in Geneva for up to two weeks, between 11 and 22 March 1996, and that its third session should be held for up to two weeks, between 2 and 13 September 1996, provisionally in Geneva.

21. The Panel welcomed the active response of a number of organizations of the United Nations system and ITTO in supporting the needs of the Panel and the establishment of its secretariat. The Panel also expressed its appreciation to all countries who pledged to make voluntary contributions to support the operation of the Panel and encouraged all others in a position to do so to consider providing extrabudgetary resources for that purpose, as was recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

III. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

22. The Panel considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th to 8th meetings, on 14 and 15 September 1995.

23. At the 6th meeting, on 14 September, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Canada and by the observer for Switzerland.

24. At the 7th meeting, on 14 September, a statement was made by the Secretary of the Panel.

25. At the 8th meeting on 15 September, statements were made by the representatives of Spain (on behalf of the States members of the European Union), the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Japan, Canada and the United States of America and by the observer for Switzerland.

26. Also at the 8th meeting, on 15 September, the Panel decided, pending approval of the Economic and Social Council, to extend the duration of its second session, to be held in Geneva, by one week so that the dates of the second session would be from 11 to 22 March 1996 (see chap. I, sect. A) and decided that, pending approval of the Economic and Social Council, the dates of the third session would be from 2 to 13 September 1996, at a venue to be determined.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PANEL ON ITS FIRST SESSION

27. At the 8th meeting, on 15 September 1995, the Panel had before it the draft report on its first session (E/CN.17/IPF/1995/L.2 and Add.1).

28. At the same meeting, the Panel adopted the first part of the report.

29. At the 9th meeting, on 15 September 1995, the Panel adopted the second part of the report, as orally amended.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

30. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development held its first session from 11 to 15 September 1995, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1995/226. The Panel held nine meetings (1st to 9th meetings).

31. The session was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti (Brazil).

32. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development addressed the Panel.

B. Attendance

33. The session was attended by representatives of 35 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental,

non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

34. At its 1st meeting, on 11 September 1995, the Panel elected, by acclamation, Sir Martin Holdgate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Co-Chairman. It also elected, by acclamation, Mr. N. R. Krishnan (India) Co-Chairman for the first and second sessions of the Panel, on the understanding that Mr. Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia) would be Co-Chairman for the third and fourth sessions of the Panel.

35. At the same meeting, after their election, statements were made by the Co-Chairmen.

36. At its 7th meeting, on 14 September 1995, the Panel elected, by acclamation, Mr. Juste Boussienguet (Gabon) Vice-Chairman.

37. At its 8th meeting, on 15 September 1995, the Panel elected, by acclamation, Mr. Anatoliy I. Pisarenko (Russian Federation) Vice-Chairman.

D. Agenda and organization of work

38. At its 1st meeting, on 11 September 1995, the Panel adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/IPF/1995/1, as orally corrected. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.
4. Dates and venues of future meetings.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Panel on its first session.

39. At the same meeting, the Panel approved its organization of work.

E. Documentation

40. The documents before the Panel are listed in annex II to the present report.

F. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Panel

41. At its 5th meeting, on 13 September 1995, the Panel considered the question of the participation of intergovernmental organizations in its work. It had before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.17/IPF/1995/L.1) entitled "Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests", in which the Secretariat recommended to the Panel that the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) be invited to attend the sessions of the Panel as an intergovernmental organization with the status of observer.

42. At the same meeting, the Panel approved the recommendation.

Notes

1/ See Report of the Commission on Social Development on its Third Session (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32)), sect. III of annex I, following para. 204. The programme elements are reproduced in annex III to the present report.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Zimbabwe.

Non-Member States and entities represented by observers

Switzerland, European Community.

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Center for International Forestry Research and International Tropical Timber Organization.

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Chamber of Commerce

Category II: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)

Roster: Friends of the Earth, Fundación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, Instituto Sul-Mineiro de Estudios e de Conservaçao de Natureza.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE PANEL AT ITS FIRST SESSION

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title
E/CN.17/IPF/1995/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/CN.17/IPF/1995/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work and organizational modalities for the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development
E/CN.17/IPF/1995/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
E/CN.17/IPF/1995/L.2 and Add.1	6	Draft report of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its first session

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PANEL AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I. Implementation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development decisions related to forests at the national and international level, including an examination of sectoral and cross-sectoral linkages

1. Consider actions to promote progress through national forests and land-use plans and programmes in implementing the Forest Principles and chapter 11 and other chapters related to forests in Agenda 21, through an open, transparent and participatory process involving Governments and all interested parties, including major groups, particularly indigenous people and local communities.

2. Identify and consider ways to address the underlying causes of deforestation, forest degradation and the difficulties in implementing sustainable forest management, with particular attention to cross-sectoral factors, including the impact on and from forests, at the national and international levels, such as consumption and production patterns, poverty, population growth, pollution, terms of trade, discriminatory trade practices and unsustainable policies related to sectors such as agriculture, energy and trade.

3. Consistent with the terms of the Convention on Biological Diversity, encourage countries to consider ways and means for the effective protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge, innovations and practices of forest dwellers, indigenous people and other local communities, as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations and practices.

4. Monitor actions to support afforestation, reforestation and the restoration of forest systems, where appropriate, particularly in countries with fragile ecosystems and affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in Africa. Within this context, also consider specific actions in countries whose forests are affected by pollution, particularly those with economies in transition in central and eastern Europe

5. Propose measures to address the needs and requirements of developing countries and other countries with low forest cover in order to promote the activities aimed at conserving the existing coverage, with particular attention to the unique types of forests.

II. International cooperation in financial assistance and technology transfer

1. Explore ways of improving the efficiency and coordination of bilateral and multilateral assistance; and consider ways to address the critical areas relating to the transfer and development of environmentally sound technology on favourable terms as mutually agreed and the mobilization of financial resources,

including the provision of new and additional resources with a view to assisting developing countries to pursue policies and comprehensive strategies for achieving sustainable forest management, recalling principles 10 and 11 of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, and the Rome Statement on Forestry, agreed by Ministers Responsible for Forests in March 1995.

III. Scientific research, forest assessment and development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

1. Review existing periodic assessment of forests, including relevant socio-economic and environmental factors, at the global level; identify shortfalls in present assessments relative to policy considerations; and recommend practical ways of improving such assessments. Examine ways to broaden the scientific knowledge and the statistical database available in order to better understand the ecological, economic, cultural and social functions performed by all types of forests. Promote the further development of methodologies for properly valuing the multiple benefits derived from forests in the form of goods and services, and subsequently to consider their inclusion within the systems of national accounting, drawing upon work that has been already undertaken by the United Nations and other relevant organizations.

2. Encourage national implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and study the feasibility of further developing internationally agreed upon criteria and indicators against which progress towards sustainable forest management of all types of forests could be measured, taking into account the specific regional and subregional conditions of forests and the diversity of economic, social and cultural environments. Within this context, facilitate the engagement of regions and countries not yet involved in developing criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management; share experiences in testing and implementing them; and examine the need to promote comparability and the appropriateness of convergence among international initiatives in this regard.

IV. Trade and environment relating to forest products and services

1. Examine relevant factors affecting trade in forest products and other forest-and-trade issues in an integrated and holistic approach that promotes a supportive relationship between trade and environment. In this connection, identify opportunities and recommend measures for improving market access for forest products on a non-discriminatory basis and consider factors that may distort trade in forest products and affect their value, including pricing, import/export controls, subsidies and the need to remove unilateral bans and boycotts inconsistent with the rules of the international trade system. Promote the development of methodologies to advance the full valuation, including replacement and environmental costs, of forest goods and services, with a view to promoting full cost internalization. Taking account of the interests of all sectors and particularities of different countries and ensuring full

transparency and participation of all interested parties, examine the issue of voluntary certification and labelling of forest products so as to contribute to a better understanding of the role of voluntary certification with regard to the sustainable management of forests, including the impact of certification on developing countries.

V. International organizations and multilateral institutions and instruments, including appropriate legal mechanisms

1. Develop a clearer view of the work being carried out by international organizations and multilateral institutions and under existing instruments as appropriate, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) in forest-related issues, including United Nations Conference on Environment and Development decisions related to forests, and the institutional linkages emanating therefrom, in order to identify any gaps, and areas requiring enhancement, as well as any areas of duplication.

2. In the light of issues I-V.1 above, based on consensus-building in a step-by-step process, consider and advise on the need, or otherwise, for other instruments or arrangements in further implementation of the Forest Principles, including appropriate legal arrangements and mechanisms covering all types of forests.

Annex IV

LIST OF ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN RELATION TO THE WORK OF THE PANEL

Programme element	Title	Sponsors	Tentative date and venue
I.1 and II	Implementing the Forest Principles: promotion of national forest and land-use programmes	Germany	June 1996
I.2 and IV	Intersessional activity to study long-term trends in supply and demand for wood products, the factors affecting those trends, and possible implications for forest management	Norway	To be determined
I.4	Desertification, rehabilitation and reafforestation of degraded forest lands	Portugal	February 1996 (tentatively)
II	Workshop on financial mechanisms, sources and coordination, including innovative financial resources, and issues related to financial resources/incentives within the context of the forest sector	Denmark, UNDP	To be determined
III.1	Forest assessment	France	To be determined
III.2	Intergovernmental seminar of experts on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management	Finland	19-23 August 1996
III.2	Seminar on the testing of criteria and indicators at the regional and local levels	Japan	To be determined
IV	Conference on the certification and labelling of sustainably produced forest products	Australia	First half of 1996
IV	Certification of forest products and trade	Germany	August 1996
V.1	Study on the work of international organizations and multilateral institutions in the forest sector	Switzerland and Peru	October 1995-September 1996